

Message Text

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ORIGIN SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 H-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05
USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 /111 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:MSPEAR
APPROVED BY S/AB:DHPOPPER
OES/ENP/EN:MR.MANSFIELD
H:AMOSS
ARA/PAN:JHAAHR

-----125634 020011Z /75

P 012256Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. SOME OF THE MAJOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WHICH HAVE
COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE CANAL TREATIES ARE SEEKING TO
PERSUADE OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS TO JOIN THEM. THEY HAVE
ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THIS
EFFORT IF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT, AT AN APPROPRIATELY
HIGH LEVEL, WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES ON
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CANAL AREA IN IM-
PLEMENTING THE TREATIES.

2. POINTS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS
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WHICH MIGHT USEFULLY BE TOUCHED ON IN SUCH A STATEMENT
(BUT NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THESE) ARE:

--PRESERVATION OF THE TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS AND THEIR
WILDLIFE IN THE CANAL WATERSHED (THIS MIGHT INCLUDE
REFERENCE TO THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT)

--ENFORCEMENT TO PREVENT THE SLASH-AND-BURN PRACTICES
WHICH ARE DESTROYING THESE FORESTS, AND

-- COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE JOINT ENVIRON-
MENTAL COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE TREATY.

3. PROVIDED THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, IT
WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE EMBASSY WOULD APPROACH SUCH
OFFICIALS AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO SEE IF THEY WOULD
BE WILLING TO ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT.

4. DURING HIS SPEECH LAST WEEK AT THE PAN AMERICAN UNION,
PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA SHOWED A SLIDE OF A PARK AREA
WHICH THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSES ESTABLISHING
TO PROTECT THE CANAL WATERSHED. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL
IF THE EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN A PRINT OF THIS MAP AND FOR-
WARD IT TO ARA/PAN: ATTN. MR. SPEAR.

5. FYI: ON JANUARY 6 THE ACTING SECRETARY ISSUED A
STATEMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, WHICH COVERED MANY OF THE POINTS NOTED IN
PARAGRAPH 2. THIS WAS DONE IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
FROM THESE SAME ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. COPIES BEING
POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY. END FYI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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